



### JUDGES' GUIDELINES / CRITERIA

1. Judging will be based on precision, accuracy of dance step, showmanship, and sportsmanship.
2. All male contestants will wear a bib/vest with identifying numbers displayed during all three (3) dances.
3. Each couple will be introduced by number and name for each of the dances.
4. Make sure your scores are completed for each dance. The first dance is an up-tempo two step. The second dance is a waltz and the third dance is a swing.
5. Scoring is from 1 to 10 (1 lowest and 10 highest) in each category. The highest total points will determine the winning couple. Scores will be tabulated in either whole numbers or .5 increments. No other point system is allowed.
6. In the event of a tie score, the winners will be chosen based on the highest score of the two step. If there is a tie in the two step, the winners will be chosen from the score of the swing. If there is still a tie score, the highest score of the waltz will be chosen.
7. The lowest total score on one of the three dances of each couple will be "dropped". However, that third and lowest score will be used if a tie breaker rule is instituted.
8. Each judge will be provided with a clipboard, pen and judging sheets.
9. Each judge will be required to judge fairly with no bias or favoritism.
10. All judges must abstain from consuming alcohol until scores for the final competition have been submitted.

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11. Couples will wear western attire during competition including western style boots. Western or "cowboy" hats are optional. Points will not be deducted from couples scores should any contestant elect not to wear western or "cowboy" hats.
12. Judging forms will be collected after each round for score tabulation. At club preliminaries the Event Coordinator will tabulate the scores between rounds in a secure, private area. At regional and national finals a Marlboro representative will tabulate the scores.
13. Scores are to be kept confidential at all times. Contestants are not to be allowed to view scores at any time.

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